

Dotty McGill School of Dance

What kinds of dance do we teach?

We teach tap and ballet (a combination class), acrobatics, jazz, baton, Cecchetti ballet and lyrical/contemporary. Let us explain –

We start children, usually at age 4, in a **combination class** of tap and ballet. These combination classes are geared to the pre-school and elementary school aged students. We use terms that these students can relate to. Classes include singing and dancing, using relatable melodies and lyrics. Students start progressing through combination class years one, two, three and four while we start switching to the proper terminology. We will accept 3 year old students on a trial basis and depending upon space availability. Students must be out of diapers.

Our form of **acrobatics** combines tumbling, balance tricks and controlled tricks. Within our acro classes we follow a set of “trick” charts that we have developed through many years of experience. Children are placed in classes according to their ability and age. We require students to have completed at least one year of a combination class or be 5 years of age.

Jazz is the most common form of dance known today. These classes dance to more current and popular songs. Jazz classes focus on furthering technique in extension/flexibility and turns and jumps. They also start working on choreography comprehension. We require students to have completed at least two years of a combination class or be 7 years of age. To take jazz classes you must continue to take the combination classes or ballet class through age 9.

Cecchetti ballet is a graded system of ballet that was developed by ballet maestro Enrico Cecchetti. It is a worldwide system and there is a United States Cecchetti Council as well as a local Council. We begin students in Cecchetti after completing 4 years of combination classes or at 8 years of age. In the Cecchetti class students are taught the proper French pronunciation and translation of terms, how to demonstrate those skills and combine different skills in patterns. Students start in Grade I and are tested – through examiners brought in by the US Cecchetti Council – when we feel they have mastered each grade.

Lyrical or contemporary dance is a ballet based dance that interprets the lyrics or feeling of a piece of music in movement and emotion. It is a style for a more mature dancer, therefore we require students to have tested through Grade 2 in Cecchetti.

We may have ballroom or partner dancing course in the fall and again in the spring. Time TBA.